

# INTER-ALLIED CONFERENCE

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EXCHANGE OF TELEGRAMS BETWEEN THE BRITISH  
AND CANADIAN GOVERNMENTS REGARDING  
REPRESENTATION OF THE DOMINIONS

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JUNE - JULY, 1924

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OTTAWA  
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PRINTER TO THE KING'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY  
1924







## INTER-ALLIED CONFERENCE

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### EXCHANGE OF TELEGRAMS BETWEEN THE BRITISH AND CANADIAN GOVERNMENTS REGARDING REPRESENTATION OF THE DOMINIONS

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*From the Governor General to the Secretary of State for the Colonies*

OTTAWA, June 25, 1924.

Mr. Ramsay MacDonald's statement in the House of Commons of June 23rd that he is now in communication with the Dominions regarding proposed Inter-Allied Conference, has been seen by Prime Minister in cable despatches to press here. No message on this subject has been received so far by him from Mr. Ramsay MacDonald or yourself, and before questions are asked him in the House here Prime Minister is anxious to receive same.

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*From the Secretary of State for the Colonies to the Governor General*

LONDON, June 25, 1924.

Your Prime Minister will have seen press reports of the Prime Minister's statement in Parliament on June 23rd, as to the result of the conversation with the French Prime Minister at Chequers and the proposed allied Conference in London next month. Prime Minister is away till to-morrow and arrangements for the organization of the Conference must await his return but further telegram will be sent as soon as possible.

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*From the Secretary of State for the Colonies to the Governor General*

LONDON, June 26, 1924.

Please let your Prime Minister know that I hope to telegraph again before the end of the week as to the Inter-Allied Conference. Message from him crossed my telegram of yesterday.

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*From the Secretary of State for the Colonies to the Governor General*

LONDON, June 28, 1924.

My telegram dated June 25th. Following from Prime Minister for your Prime Minister: Begins:—

I have now had an opportunity of going further into the question of the participation of the Dominion Governments in the Inter-Allied deliberations



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next month. Work of the Conference will be to concert the necessary arrangements for putting the Dawes Report into operation. Conference being restricted to this one subject, question of Inter-Allied debts and problem of securities will not be dealt with. Principal task of the Conference seems therefore likely to be, to agree upon the terms of an instrument, to be signed by the Allies and by Germany, formally binding the parties executing the recommendations of the Dawes Report.

In order to avoid any appearance of wishing to amend the Treaty of Versailles, this instrument might take the form of a protocol.

As I had already suggested in conversation with the Belgian Minister, at the beginning of May, we favour the plan of fixing in such protocol (i) a date by which Legislative and other measures to be taken by Germany must be complete, and (ii) a second date, say a fortnight later, when all fiscal and economic sanctions and other arrangements, affecting the economic activities of the German Reich and now in force in German territory, will be withdrawn.

*Note.*—See later developments as set out in Anglo-French note July 9th.

Dawes Report lays down that sanctions shall not be re-imposed, except in the case of flagrant failure to fulfil conditions embodied in the Report itself. A stipulation to this effect will accordingly have to find a place in the protocol, and the question will have to be decided who is to be the authority to declare there has been flagrant failure. That duty cannot properly be entrusted to the Reparation Commission, whose functions are strictly determined by the Treaty of Versailles, since the engagements to be undertaken by Germany under the Dawes scheme go altogether beyond those imposed by the Treaty. A suggestion has been made that the Financial Committee of the League of Nations might be brought in for the purpose, but the matter is still open for discussion.

Lastly, the protocol should contain a clause providing that any dispute as to its proper interpretation shall be referred to an International Court.

You will see from above outline of the task before the Conference, that the procedure, as regards the association of the various Governments of the Empire in its work, should clearly be governed by the principle of the resolution as to the negotiation, etc., of Treaties agreed to by the Imperial Conference 1923. Our suggestion is that a meeting should be held in London of Dominion and Indian representatives, to discuss with His Majesty's Government policy to be adopted at the Conference, and make arrangements for representation.

If you agree, I should be grateful for a reply as soon as possible, and also to learn the name of the representative who will attend the preliminary meeting. As the opening date of Conference likely to be July 16th, we ought hold the preliminary meeting in the previous week. Report of Dawes Committee enclosed in Secretary of State's despatch of April 19th, No. 188. Similar telegram sent to other Dominion Prime Ministers. Ramsay MacDonald. Ends.



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*From the Governor General to the Secretary of State for the Colonies*

OTTAWA, June 30, 1924.

Following from my Prime Minister for your Prime Minister. Begins:—

Re participation of Dominion Governments in Inter-Allied Conference: Your telegram June 28th was received yesterday (Sunday) and contents considered with colleagues at Cabinet Council to-day. We agree, from outline of the task before the Conference as set forth in your telegram, that the procedure as regards the association of the various Governments of the Empire in its work should be governed by the principle of the resolution as to the negotiation, etc., of treaties agreed to by the Imperial Conference, 1923. In this connection, we assume that the procedure with respect to the proposed protocol will be that set forth in the case of treaties negotiated at International conferences where there is a British Empire delegation, in which, in accordance with the now established practice, the Dominions and India will be separately represented.

We are pleased to concur in your suggestion that a meeting of such representatives should be held in London to discuss with His Majesty's Government policy to be adopted at the Conference and make arrangements for representation. We should like to have our Government represented by one of its Ministers at the preliminary meeting, but as you indicate this meeting should be held in the week previous to July 16th, we doubt if it will be possible so to arrange owing to the limited time between now and then.

We hope, however, to be able to arrange to have one of our Ministers represent Canada at the main Conference. To effect this, it will be necessary for us to be immediately advised if we are right in the assumption, that, as respects negotiation, signature and ratification of the proposed protocol, principles governing will be same as those regarding treaties negotiated at international conferences as referred to in Section 1, subsection (c) respecting negotiation, and Section 2, subsection (c) respecting signature, of the procedure as set forth in the resolution of the Imperial Conference, 1923. We should like, if possible, to be informed as to this before deciding on the representative to be named to attend the preliminary meeting, as the selection of the latter will necessarily be governed to some extent by the procedure to be observed with respect to our representation at the Inter-Allied Conference. Ends.

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*From the Secretary of State for the Colonies to the Governor General*

LONDON, July 3, 1924.

Your telegram dated June 30th. Following from Prime Minister for your Prime Minister: Begins:—

Your message was considered by the Cabinet July 2nd. As explained in my message of June 28th, work of the Inter-Allied Conference will be of strictly limited scope. There is no question, for example, of changing the percentage . . . .



payable to the British Empire on account of sums received by way of reparations (viz: 22 per cent) or of altering the allocation of this percentage, which was agreed at the Imperial Conference of 1921.

Also, not only will the problem of securities not be dealt with, but no military commitments will be entered into. We intend to retain the liberty of action in the event of wilful default by Germany, and not to go further than agreeing, in that event, to consult the Allies as to the nature of the sanctions to be applied.

Generally speaking, it is difficult to see that any special obligations on the Dominions will be entailed.

I thus find it difficult to give a definite answer to that part of your message which deals with the precise application of the principle of the resolution as to the negotiation, etc., of Treaties, passed at the Imperial Conference last year, to the arrangements for representation at the Inter-Allied Conference. We had contemplated that the question of representation should be discussed and settled at the preliminary conference in London, referred to in my message of June 28th. Would you have any objection to this and nominate representative accordingly to attend it? I ought to tell you quite frankly that, in the circumstances, we do see the difficulties in arranging for a separate representative of all the Dominions and India, if this should be desired, since this would result in our total representation largely out-numbering that of Foreign countries.

For this reason we had hoped to consider at the preliminary Conference with the Dominions and India, whether there was any method of arranging to keep our representation down to three.

One method might be the application of the panel system, as arranged at Paris in 1919, but as to this, I should explain that I think my own prerogative will be essential throughout, and probably that of the Chancellor of the Exchequer. Another method might be that the Dominions and India should agree on a single representative, but this would be a departure which, so far as I know, has never been discussed previously, and might very probably be regarded as open to objection.

Whatever system adopted, British Empire Delegation should, we think, remain in session during the Conference, so as to deal with all developments requiring discussion after the Conference has opened. Also our view is that arrangements should be considered as applicable to this Conference only, which as already indicated, is of a very special character. As regards the general question of the application of Conference resolution on the negotiation, etc., of Treaties, see my message of June 23rd.

Our present view is that the proposed protocol should be signed on behalf of all Powers represented at the Conference, and that separate signature(s) for the Dominions and India should be included. I should add, however, that it is intended to be an instrument not requiring ratification.

Prime Minister of the Commonwealth of Australia has nominated the High Commissioner to attend the preliminary meeting. No replies yet received from other Dominions. Duration of Conference estimated at about a week. I am repeating your message and this reply to the Commonwealth of Australia, New Zealand, Union of South Africa, and the Irish Free State. I should like to arrange the preliminary meeting, if possible, Thursday, July 10th. Ends.

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*From the Governor General to the Secretary of State for the Colonies*

OTTAWA, July 7, 1924.

*Re participation of Canada in Inter-Allied Conference.*

Following from my Prime Minister for your Prime Minister. Begins.

I have submitted to my colleagues in Council your reply of the third instant to my telegram of the thirtieth ultimo. We feel that the representations of your telegram in respect of the negotiation and signature of the proposed protocol present so many features parallel to those of the Lausanne Treaty which have given rise to the recent discussions in your Parliament and our own, that the exact position cannot be too clearly understood or too carefully stated.

In your telegram you say: Quote:

"Our present view is that the proposed protocol should be signed on behalf of all parties represented at the Conference and that separate signatures for the Dominions and India should be included". End quote.

Elsewhere in the same message you say: Quote:

"I thus find it difficult to give a definite answer to that part of your message which deals with the precise application of the principle of the resolution as to the negotiation, etc., of treaties, passed at the Imperial Conference last year, to the arrangements for representation at the Inter-allied Conference". End quote.

And also: Quote:

"I ought to tell you quite frankly that in the circumstances we do see the difficulties in arranging for a separate representative of all the Dominions and India if this should be desired". End quote.

If the proposed protocol is to be regarded as coming within the category of treaties negotiated at international conferences where there is a British Empire delegation, and if, as stated in your telegram of June 28th, the principles of the resolution as to the negotiations, etc., of treaties agreed to by the Imperial Conference, 1923, are to apply, there would in our opinion, from the wording of the resolution, appear to be no escape from the conclusion that the now established practice with respect to negotiation in such a case requires that the Dominions and India should be separately represented, and that the existing practice with respect to signature demands signature by plenipotentiaries on behalf of the Governments of the Empire represented at the Conference, the Full Powers to be in the form employed at Paris and Washington.

At Paris and Washington, Canada's representative held a Full Power signed by His Majesty the King in the form of letters patent authorizing him to sign, (quote) "for, and in the name of His Majesty the King in respect of the Dominion of Canada," (end quote), and treaties, conventions and agreements that might tend to the attainment of the object of the Conference, the Canadian Government having, by Order in Council, sanctioned the issuance of these Full Powers by His Majesty.

If the protocol is to be signed on behalf of Canada and the terms of the resolution of the Imperial Conference are to be followed, it will, we think, be



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necessary to have at the Conference a representative of Canada holding a full power signed by His Majesty the King in the form described, and sanctioned by Order in Council of our Government.

We regret that it will not be possible for Canada to be represented at the preliminary meeting by a member of our Cabinet who is wholly familiar with all the considerations of which we think full account should be taken and who might also serve as Canada's representative at the Inter-Allied Conference. As time, however, will not permit of this, I am to-day cabling our High Commissioner in London, the Honourable Peter C. Larkin, to represent our Dominion at the preliminary meeting which it is anticipated will be held on Thursday, and am instructing Mr. Larkin to present the point of view of our Government as herein set forth. I should be deeply obliged if you would have Mr. Larkin immediately supplied with copies of all the correspondence that has been exchanged between our respective Governments upon the subject of Canada's representation at the Inter-Allied Conference, including a copy of this message, in order that he may, in advance of the meeting, be made as familiar as possible therewith. Ends.

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*From the Governor General to the Secretary of State for the Colonies*

OTTAWA, July 9, 1924.

Following from my Prime Minister for your Prime Minister, Begins:—

On the Orders of the Day to-day a question was asked with respect to the Inter-Allied Conference, to which I replied intimating that I would bring its contents to the attention of His Majesty's Government with a view to ascertaining your wishes in the matter. I should be obliged if you would kindly indicate the reply which you wish me to make as from His Majesty's Government. The Question and Answer appear on Hansard as follows:

"Mr. Jos. T. Shaw (West Calgary): Press despatches having indicated that Premier Ramsay MacDonald has issued a memorandum with reference to the proceedings at the proposed Conference regarding the Dawes report, and that the French Press in discussing the memorandum has treated it as a formulation of British policy, I want to ask the Prime Minister the following questions: First, has the Government received such a memorandum? Second, will the Government lay on the table all the correspondence in connection with this matter? And lastly, if for any reason the Government is unable to table all the correspondence, will the memorandum referred to be tabled?"

"Rt. Hon. W. L. Mackenzie King (Prime Minister): The Government has not received a formal memorandum, but has received a communication from the Prime Minister of Great Britain, intimating the matters that would probably come before the Inter-Allied Conference. That communication is very similar in its contents to the memorandum to which I think the honourable member refers, and which I have seen quoted in the press. It was an intimation from the Prime Minister of Great Britain to the Government of Canada of the matters which would



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probably be discussed at the Inter-Allied Conference. There was, however, a further communication, requesting that the Government should name a representative to meet with the representatives of the other British Dominions in conference with His Majesty's Government in London this week. The Conference, I believe, takes place to-morrow, and we have asked our High Commissioner, Mr. Larkin, to represent us at that preliminary conference, at which, I understand, the policy of the British Empire in this matter will be considered. Pending authority from the British Government, I should hesitate to place on the table any of the communications which have thus far been received, but I shall have pleasure in communicating to the British Government the request of the honourable member with a view to ascertaining their wishes in the circumstances." Ends.

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*From the Secretary of State for the Colonies to the Governor General*

LONDON, JULY 11, 1924.

Following from Prime Minister for your Prime Minister: Begins:—

I have had full and frank talk at Conference with the High Commissioners for Canada, Commonwealth of Australia, New Zealand, Irish Free State, and the Secretary of State for India, this afternoon Friday, and have explained to them in detail the difficulties which confront us in securing separate representation of the Dominions and India in the same manner as at Versailles and Washington.

It is of most urgent necessity (?) that the Dawes Report should be put into operation without delay, and that the Inter-Allied Conference, which is to deal with nothing but how this can be done, and is therefore not treaty making, should meet as fixed on July 16th.

Under the present arrangements delegations of each of the chief Powers are to consist of three representatives, and even if we were in a position to negotiate an extension now, it could not be fixed up before next Wednesday. In view of the political and economic situation in Europe, that would mean that the Conference would be postponed indefinitely. This would destroy all chances of the Report being put into operation, with disastrous consequences to Europe and indeed the whole world. All that the British Government has striven for would be wrecked and any hope of obtaining financial results from the Treaty of Versailles would be gone. While Australia, if separate representation at the Conference is impossible, and New Zealand are prepared to be represented by a British Minister, instructions of the other High Commissioners present did not enable any definite recommendations to be made. It seemed, however, that the following arrangements were likely to meet the situation best—

(a) British representatives to keep in continuous consultation with the High Commissioner or other representative(s) appointed by the Governments of the Dominions and India, during the course of the sittings of the Conference.

(b) Dominion Governments to be kept fully informed by telegraph of Conference proceedings.



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I gave the High Commissioners present and the Secretary of State for India following assurance "Whatever is agreed to now, under exceptional (?) character, this Conference will not be regarded or quoted as a precedent and a statement to that effect will be made by me to the Conference".

I am quite sure you will appreciate our difficulties, and do your best to help us. Please reply urgently.

I am sending this message to the Prime Ministers of Canada, Commonwealth of Australia and New Zealand, and to the President of the Executive Council of the Irish Free State. I am also repeating it to the Prime Minister of the Union of South Africa. Ramsay MacDonald. Ends.

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*From the Secretary of State for the Colonies to the Governor General*

LONDON, July 12, 1924.

Following is English text of the Anglo-French Note prepared in Paris, July 9th. Begins:—

British and French Governments have agreed to submit to the Allied Governments following and recommend to them acceptance of the conclusions therein set.

1. In the view of the British and French Governments, object of the Conference to be convened in London July 16th, is to settle the method of putting into execution the Experts' Report, so far as concerns questions the solution of which devolves on interested Governments.

2. The two Governments recognize the importance of the economic and financial points of view, and more especially the necessity of establishing a state of confidence, which may give necessary security to eventual lenders, but they do not consider that this necessity is incompatible with respect for the provisions of the Treaty of Versailles, a point which the following considerations will make perfectly clear.

Moreover violation of these provisions would lead to a collapse of both of the permanent foundations on which rests the peace so painfully achieved, and of confidence in solemn national engagements, and would tend not to prevent but to inaugurate new conflicts.

3. Experts were appointed by the Reparation Commission, who invited them on November 30th, 1923, to "consider means of balancing the budget and measures to be taken to stabilize the currency of Germany."

Reparation Commission in this respect acted in view of the powers vested in them by Part VIII of the Treaty of Versailles, and notably by Article 234 (here follows text of Article).

It was in order to obtain enlightenment in the exercise of these powers that the Reparation Commission consulted the Experts Committee appointed under Paragraph 7 of Annex II to Part VIII, which reads as follows (here follows text).



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4. Experts submitted their reports to the Reparation Commission, which, by a letter of April 17th, communicated them to the interested Governments, stating the Commission had unanimously decided (i) to take note of the reply in which the German Government adhere to the conclusions of the Experts' Reports, (ii) to approve, within the limits of its competency, the conclusions formulated in these reports, and to adopt the methods contained therein, (iii) to transmit officially the reports of the Committee to the Governments concerned, recommending to them the conclusions which fall within their competency, so that the suggested plan may produce their full effect as early as possible, etc."

As the Reparation Commission point out, certain of the measures, which have to be taken in order to put into operation the Experts' plan, are thus solely within the competency of Governments.

This is moreover explicitly stated in the Dawes Report, paragraph 3 of which runs as follows (here follows text).

5. It becomes necessary, therefore, that creditors of the Government should conclude an arrangement in virtue of which they engage to take measures within their competency, in order to ensure effect is given to the Dawes plan.

British and French Governments declare it is of the highest importance that the Experts' Report shall be put into operation without delay, in order to ensure payment of reparations by Germany, and to bring the Allies back to co-operative action.

To this end, the two Governments have agreed on the following points:

(a) A Conference shall meet in London July 16th; two Governments note with satisfaction that the United States of America have decided to be represented.

(b) Governments concerned will first of all confirm acceptance, so far as they are concerned, of the conclusions of the Dawes Report—an acceptance which they have already given individually to the Reparation Commission.

(c) The arrangements to be concluded must not diminish the authority of the Reparation Commission. But in view of the fact that some security must be given to those who provide the 800 million gold marks and take up economic bonds, the two Governments will unite in an effort to secure the presence of an American on the Reparation Commission, in the event of the latter having to consider a default on the part of Germany. If this solution proved impossible, and in the event of members of the Reparation Commission being divided in opinion as to the fact, the two Governments would recommend that the Reparation Commission should call in the Agent General for reparation payments, who is to be of American nationality.

(d) Dawes Report contains provisions to meet minor defaults by means of various supervisory organizations; but an important wilful default would at once raise the question of Germany's good faith. In the event of the Reparation Commission declaring such a default, the Governments concerned will confer at once on how to put into operation such measures as they shall agree to take to protect themselves and investors.



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(c) The plan by which German economic and fiscal unity should be restored, so soon as the Reparation Commission has decided that the Dawes Report is in operation, shall be settled at the Inter-Allied Conference. The Reparation Commission will be asked to prepare and present to the Inter-Allied Conference suggestions for such plan.

(d) In event of experience showing the necessity for modifications of the Experts' plan, they should only be introduced subject to all necessary guarantees, and by common agreement between interested Governments, except in so far as the Reparation Commission already has the necessary powers.

(e) In order to take full advantage of reparation payments provided for in the Experts' Report, and secure that they may benefit the Nations interested, Allies shall appoint a special body to advise the Governments interested what organizations should be set up in each country to use the payments made by Germany (in particular concerning transfer and deliveries in kind).

(h) It will also be necessary to settle the question of who shall be the authority to be entrusted with the interpretation of the Dawes Report, as well as of the arrangements to be concluded in London for putting the report into operation.

6. In the event of difficulties of interpretation arising in respect of the present document, the two Governments agree to refer these to their respective legal advisers.

7. The two Governments have had a preliminary exchange of views on the question of Inter-Allied Debts. British Government declare they, in consultation with the Governments concerned, seek an equitable solution of this problem, due regard being had to all factors involved. This question is therefore referred, for a preliminary examination, to the Experts of the Treasury.

8. The two Governments have likewise proceeded to a preliminary exchange of views on the question of securities. They are aware that public opinion requires pacification; they agree to co-operate to devise—through the League of Nations or otherwise—as opportunity presents itself, means of securing this, and to continue consideration of the question until the problem of general securities can be finally solved. Ends.

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*From the Governor General to the Secretary of State for the Colonies.*

OTTAWA, July 13, 1924.

Following from Prime Minister for your Prime Minister. Begins:—

Inter-Allied Conference—Your telegram July 11th was received yesterday, and contents carefully considered by Cabinet at meeting held during day. We are naturally most anxious to avoid any embarrassment to your Government, and it was with this end in view that when informed by you that Inter-Allied Conference came within scope 1923 Imperial Conference resolution and that in consequence we were being asked to send a representative to a preliminary



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conference between His Majesty's Government and the self-governing Dominions and India to arrange for representation at Inter-Allied Conference we deemed it advisable to anticipate the possibility of any misunderstanding by stating clearly our position with respect to representation in accordance with the terms of that Resolution. From the statements of your telegram of July 11th it would seem that the preliminary conference was not, as we had been led to believe, so much for the purpose of arranging for representation of the Dominions and India on a British Empire Delegation as for the purpose of informing the Dominions and India of what, in advance of consultation with their representatives, had been decided upon with respect to representation at the Inter-Allied Conference. This is precisely the procedure adopted with respect to representation at the Lausanne Conference to which exception has been taken, concerning which, we have been told, we should have spoken more plainly at the time, and which for many reasons, we had hoped would not be repeated. We regret that we are unable to acquiesce in this method of proceeding, or to depart from the position which we have consistently maintained of having Canada's right to representation at the Inter-allied Conference determined in accordance with the precedents established at Versailles and Washington, and confirmed by the 1923 Conference Resolution which our Government has formally approved. With regard to possible objection by other countries we deem it sufficient to observe that the British Empire has an absolute right to determine its internal organization which in the relevant aspect has already received international recognition. In case the rules of procedure at the Inter-Allied Conference do not permit the entire British Empire Delegation to be present at the Sessions of the Conference, we are quite prepared to agree that the representation at such Sessions shall be determined from time to time by the Delegation, but we regard as essential to our signature to any protocol or other agreement negotiated at an international conference where there is a British Empire Delegation, representation of Canada on such delegation by a delegate holding full powers in the manner set forth in my previous telegram. In thus stating our position we feel that we are adopting the only course which will commend itself to our parliament. Ends.

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*From the Secretary of State for the Colonies to the Governor General.*

LONDON, July 15, 1924.

Please communicate following very urgent message from me to your Prime Minister. Begins:—

In the unavoidable absence of the Prime Minister I had further meetings this morning with the High Commissioners for Canada, Commonwealth of Australia, New Zealand and Irish Free State. I read to them your message to the Prime Minister of July 13th and replies from the other Dominions which are being repeated to you separately. I am grateful for your suggestion that



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representation at the Sessions of the Inter-Allied Conference should be determined from time to time by the British Empire Delegation which I interpret as meaning that you think the panel system (which will enable one Dominion representative to be present at the Sessions each day) offers way out of difficulty. This plan certainly seems the best means of meeting the position and I am prepared to take steps accordingly and to arrange for each Dominion representative to be furnished with the necessary full powers.

Please reply to-day in view of the opening of the Conference to-morrow. Ends.

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*From the Secretary of State for the Colonies to the Governor General.*

LONDON, July 15, 1924.

Following from Prime Minister for your Prime Minister. Begins:—

Your message of July 9th. There are really two questions involved. First—representation of the Dominions in connection with the Inter-Allied Conference; second—Agenda for the Conference. As to the first, would it not be best to defer the question of publication of papers till correspondence complete. As to the second, it is quite true that the first part of my message of June 28th contained the substance of the memorandum referred to in the question in the Canadian House of Commons, but as you know there have been later developments, which resulted in my visit to Paris and joint Anglo-French Note subsequently issued. This was telegraphed by the Secretary of State for the Colonies, July 12th, and has been published. Ends.

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*From the Governor General to the Secretary of State for the Colonies*

OTTAWA, July 15, 1924.

Prime Minister desires me to send you following message in reply to your communication of to-day. Begins:—

*Re representation, Inter-Allied Conference.*

My understanding of your telegram just received is that you are agreeable to following, as respects Inter-Allied Conference which opens to-morrow, precedent of Paris Peace Conference with respect to representatives of self governing Dominions on British Empire Delegation, and that procedure to be followed at Inter-Allied Conference as respects British Empire Delegation will be similar to that followed at Paris Peace Conference.

In accordance with this understanding, our Government has to-day passed Order in Council appointing the Honourable N. A. Belcourt as the representative of Canada at the Inter-Allied Conference and requesting issuance to him of the necessary full powers. Ends.

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*From the Governor General to the Secretary of State for the Colonies.*

OTTAWA, July 15, 1924.

Minute of Council approved to-day recommending the appointment of the Honourable Napoleon Antoine Belcourt, member of the King's Privy Council for Canada and a Senator, as Commissioner and Plenipotentiary in respect of the Dominion of Canada to the forthcoming Conference at London, on 16th July, 1924, for the purpose of considering Dawes Report on German Reparations, and requesting the grant of full powers to Senator Belcourt.

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P.C. 1233

*Certified copy of a Minute of a Meeting of the Committee of the Privy Council,  
approved by His Excellency the Governor General on the 15th July, 1924.*

The Committee of the Privy Council have had before them a report, dated 15th July, 1924, from the Right Honourable W. L. Mackenzie King, Prime Minister and Secretary of State for External Affairs, representing that in connection with the forthcoming conference to be held at London on the 16th July, 1924, for the purpose of considering the Dawes Report on German Reparations, it is expedient to invest a fit person with full power to treat on the part of His Majesty the King in respect of the Dominion of Canada with a person or persons similarly empowered on the part of the other participating States.

The Minister therefore recommends that His Majesty the King be humbly moved to issue Letters Patent to the Honourable Napoleon Antoine Belcourt, a Member of the King's Privy Council for Canada and a Senator, naming and appointing him as commissioner and plenipotentiary in respect of the Dominion of Canada with full power and authority to conclude with such plenipotentiary or plenipotentiaries as may be vested with similar power and authority on the part of any powers or states, any treaties, conventions or agreements in connection with the said conference, and to sign for and in the name of His Majesty the King in respect of the Dominion of Canada everything so agreed upon and concluded and to transact all such other matters as may appertain thereto.

All of which is respectfully submitted for Your Excellency's approval.

E. J. LEMAIRE,  
Clerk of the Privy Council.

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15 GEORGE V, A. 1924

*From the Secretary of State for the Colonies to the Governor General.*

LONDON, July 17, 1924.

Following for your Prime Minister, begins:—

Your two messages of July 15th in regard to my message of the same day, were read at (?) further meeting with the High Commissioners to-day, at which Senator Belcourt was present.

In order to avoid any possibility of misunderstanding, I want to make it quite clear that the proposal in my message of July 15th was that the Canadian representative should attend the meetings of the Inter-Allied Conference under the panel system in rotation with the representatives of the other Dominions.

This procedure follows that at the Paris Peace Conference in so far as that Conference provided that each Delegation had the right to avail itself of the panel system, but is not in accordance with that part of the rules of the Paris Conference which provided for separate representation of the Dominions and India, in addition to the possibility of their inclusion, if so desired, in the representation of the British Empire by the panel system.

I feel bound to point this out before definite arrangements made for the representation of the Dominions, as I am not sure on reading your telegram whether this position was understood.

I hope very much that my proposal (which has already been accepted on behalf of Australia, New Zealand and India) may be carried out, it being understood of course, that the arrangement is a special one, and governed by the Prime Minister's assurance contained in my telegram dated July 11th.

You will also like to know that it can be arranged for representatives of the Dominion to be present at the meetings of the Inter-Allied Conference on the days when it is not their turn to sit as members of the British Empire Delegation. This will ensure that they are fully acquainted with all that goes on in conference. Ends.

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*From the Governor General to the Secretary of State for the Colonies.*

OTTAWA, July 17, 1924.

Following from my Prime Minister. Begins:—

In view of representations and assurances contained in your telegram just received, and in order to avoid as far as possible any embarrassment to His Majesty's Government in existing situation and to facilitate as far as may be in our power work of the Inter-Allied Conference, our Government is prepared to accept your proposal of July 15th as interpreted in your telegram of to-day. I am advising our High Commissioner and Senator Belcourt accordingly.

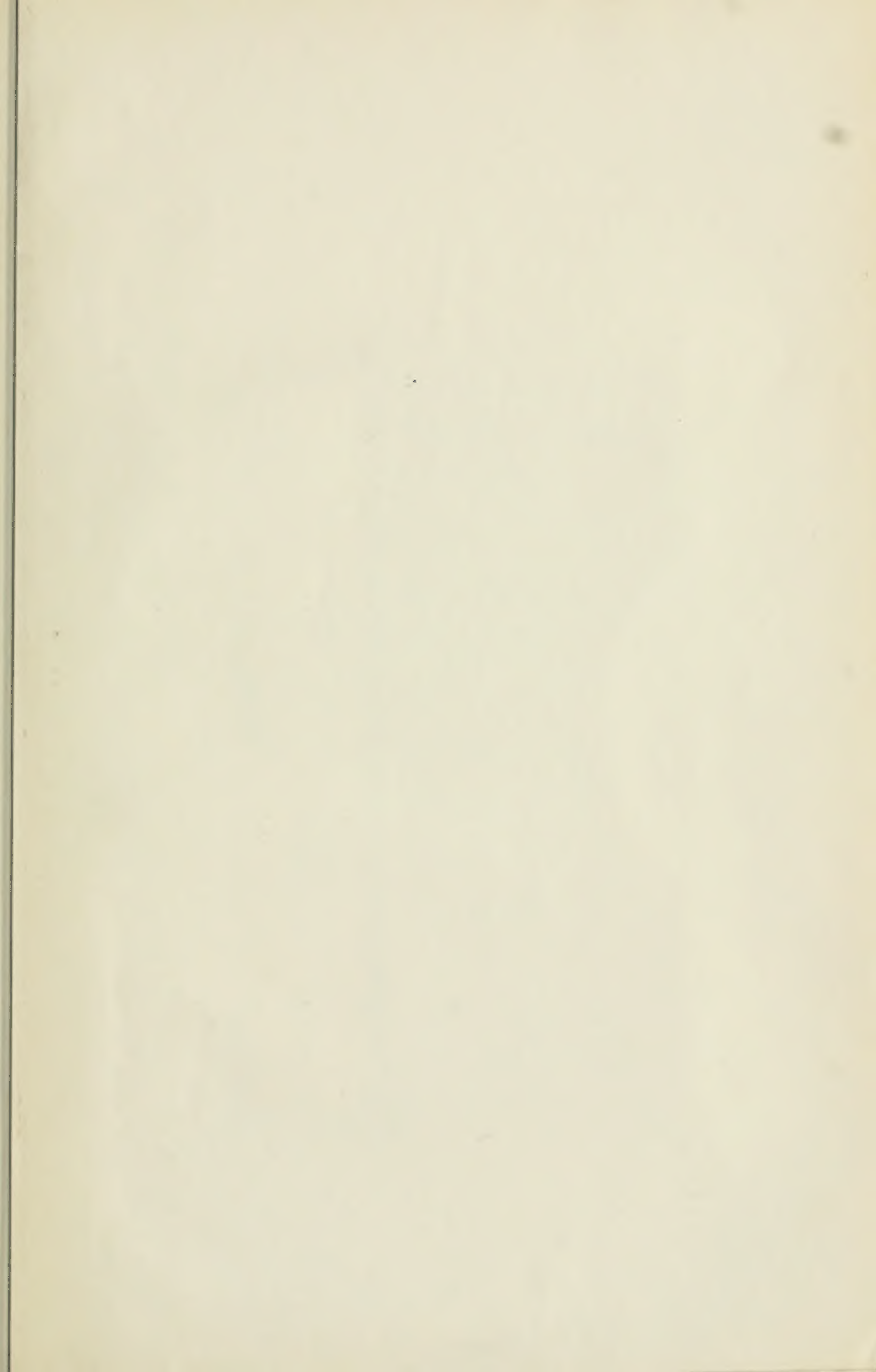








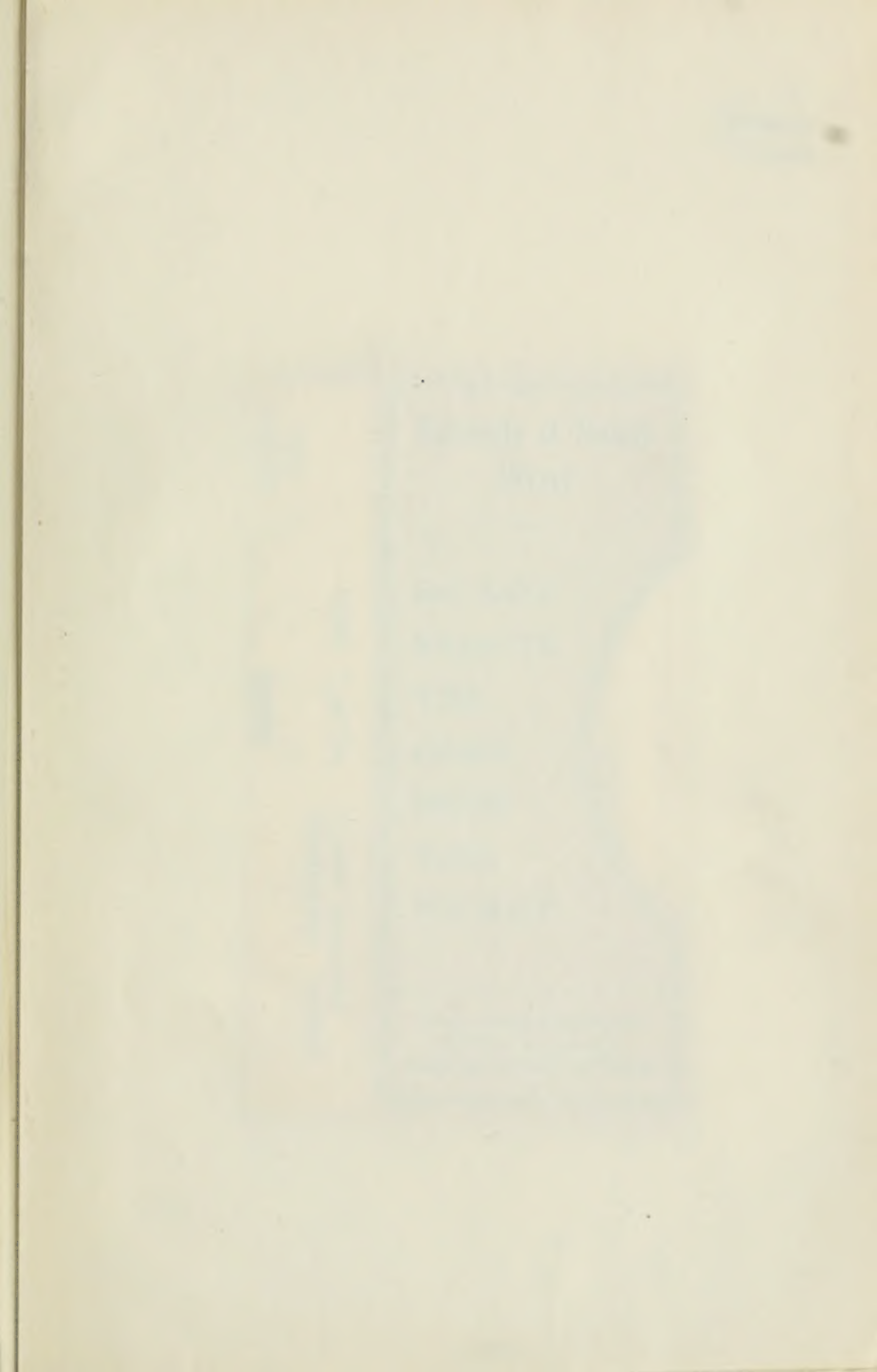














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